

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended): A probiotic composition for addition to [the] a reduction of a bacterium in an aquatic environment ~~comprising~~ consisting of:

~~an isolated bacteria~~ a biologically pure bacterium of the genus *Bacillus* for a reduction of a pathogenic bacterium.

2. (currently amended): The composition of claim 1 wherein the ~~bacteria~~ biologically pure bacterium is further defined as *Bacillus cereus*.

3. (currently amended): The composition of claim 1 wherein the ~~isolated Bacillus~~ biologically pure bacterium is strain EHC 100 having ~~ATCC~~ RRRL deposit accession number B-30535.

4. (currently amended): The composition of claim 1 wherein the bacterium being reduced is a pathogenic bacterium selected from the group consisting essentially of *Streptococcus*, ~~*Psuedomonas*~~ *Pseudomonas* and *Aeromonas*.

5. (currently amended): The composition of claim 3 wherein the bacterium being reduced is a pathogenic bacterium selected from the group consisting essentially of *Streptococcus*, ~~*Psuedomonas*~~ *Pseudomonas* and *Aeromonas*.

6. (original): The composition of claim 1 further comprising from 2 to 5% sodium.

7. (currently amended): The composition of claim 2 wherein the ~~isolated *Bacillus cereus*~~ biologically pure bacterium has a density of from  $4 \times 10^8$  to  $6 \times 10^8$  colony forming units per milliliter.

8. (original): The composition of claim 7 wherein the colony forming units of the *Bacillus cereus* are less than 99% spores.

9. (original): The composition of claim 7 wherein the colony forming units of the *Bacillus cereus* are less than 80% spores.

10. (currently amended): The composition of claim 1 wherein the aquatic environment is a ~~ko~~ Koi pond.

11. (original): The composition of claim 1 wherein the aquatic environment is saltwater.

12. (original): The composition of claim 1 wherein the aquatic environment is a shrimp pond.

13. (original): The composition of claim 1 wherein the aquatic environment is freshwater.

14. (original): A method for reducing levels of pathogenic bacteria in an aquatic environment comprising:

adding a sufficient amount of the composition of claim 2 to the aquatic environment to cause a reduction in the pathogenic bacteria.

15. (currently amended): The method of claim 14 further comprising:

determining ~~the levels~~ a level of pathogenic bacteria in the aquatic environment before and after addition of the composition; and

adding a second dose of the composition to the aquatic environment to cause a further reduction in the pathogenic bacteria.

16. (original): A method for reducing levels of pathogenic bacteria in an aquatic environment comprising:

adding a sufficient amount of the composition of claim 3 to the aquatic environment to cause a reduction in the pathogenic bacteria.

17. (currently amended): The method of claim 16 further comprising:

determining ~~the levels~~ a level of pathogenic bacteria in the aquatic environment before and after addition of the composition; and

adding a second dose of the composition to the aquatic environment to cause a further reduction in the pathogenic bacteria.

18. (original): The method of claim 14 wherein 20 to 60 milliliters of the composition having from  $4 \times 10^8$  to  $6 \times 10^8$  of the *Bacillus cereus* is added per 1,000 gallons of aquatic environment.

19. (currently amended): The method of claim 16 wherein 20 to 60 milliliters of the composition having from  $4 \times 10^8$  to  $6 \times 10^8$  of the ~~EHC-100~~ strain EHC 100 having ATCC deposit accession number B-30535 is added per 1,000 gallons of aquatic environment.

20. (currently amended): The method of claim 14 wherein the aquatic environment is a ~~koi~~ Koi pond.

21. (currently amended): The method of claim 16 wherein the aquatic environment is a ~~koi~~ Koi pond.

22. (original): The method of claim 14 wherein the aquatic environment is saltwater.

23. (original): The method of claim 16 wherein the aquatic environment is saltwater.

24. (original): The method of claim 14 wherein the aquatic environment is freshwater.

25. (original): The method of claim 16 wherein the aquatic environment if freshwater.

26. (currently amended): A method for reducing the levels of fish morbidity in an aquatic environment comprising:

adding a sufficient amount of the composition of claim 2 to the aquatic environment to cause a reduction in a pathogenic bacterium ~~bacteria~~ in the aquatic environment.

27. A method for reducing the levels of fish morbidity in an aquatic environment comprising:

adding a sufficient amount of the composition of claim 3 to the aquatic environment to cause a reduction in pathogenic bacterium in the aquatic environment.

28. (currently amended): The method of claim 26 further comprising:

determining ~~the levels~~ a level of pathogenic bacteria in the aquatic environment before and after addition of the composition;

determining ~~the~~ an approximate number of fish in the aquatic environment before and after the addition of the composition to the aquatic environment; and

adding a second dose of the composition to the aquatic environment to cause a further reduction in the pathogenic bacteria.

29. (currently amended): The method of claim 27 further comprising:

determining ~~the levels~~ an approximate number of pathogenic bacteria in the aquatic environment before and after addition of the composition;

determining the approximate number of fish in the aquatic environment before and after the addition of the composition to the aquatic environment; and

adding a second dose of the composition to the aquatic environment to cause a further reduction in the pathogenic bacteria.

30. (original): The method of claim 26 wherein the fish is *Tilapia*.

31. (original): The method of claim 27 wherein the fish is *Tilapia*.

32. (original): The method of claim 26 wherein 20 to 60 milliliters of the composition having from  $4 \times 10^8$  to  $6 \times 10^8$  of the *Bacillus cereus* is added per 1,000 gallons of aquatic environment.

33. (currently amended): The method of claim 27 wherein 20 to 60 milliliters of the composition having from  $4 \times 10^8$  to  $6 \times 10^8$  of the strain EHC 100 having ATCC deposit accession number B-30535 is added per 1,000 gallons of aquatic environment.

34. (currently amended): The method of claim 26 wherein the aquatic environment is a ~~koi~~ Koi pond.

35 (currently amended): The method of claim 27 wherein the aquatic environment is a ~~koi~~ Koi pond.

36. (original): The method of claim 26 wherein the aquatic environment is a shrimp pond.

37. (original): The method of claim 27 wherein the aquatic environment is a shrimp pond.

38. (original): The method of claim 26 wherein the aquatic environment is saltwater.

39. (original): The method of claim 27 wherein the aquatic environment is saltwater.

40. (original): The method of claim 26 wherein the aquatic environment is freshwater.

41. (original): The method of claim 27 wherein the aquatic environment is freshwater.

42. (currently amended): A method for treating fish infected with ~~[[a]]~~ pathogenic bacteria in an aquatic environment comprising:

adding a sufficient amount of the composition of claim 3 to the aquatic environment to cause a reduction in ~~the~~ a percentage of fish infected with the pathogenic ~~bacterium~~ bacteria.

43. (currently amended): A method for treating shellfish infected with ~~[[a]]~~ pathogenic bacteria in an aquatic environment comprising:

adding a sufficient amount of the composition of claim 3 to the aquatic environment to cause a reduction in ~~the~~ a percentage of shellfish infected with the pathogenic ~~bacterium~~ bacteria.